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TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Membership

Representative Miguel Wise



Biographical Information

Miguel "Mike" D. Wise was elected in 1996 to represent District 39 in the Texas House of Representatives. The district, in southeast Hidalgo County, includes the communities of Weslaco, Alamo, Donna, Mercedes, San Juan, Progreso, and Progreso Lakes. It is one of the most productive agricultural areas of the state but also has one of the highest levels of poverty in Texas and the United States.

Because of the severe economic problems faced by his constituents, Representative Wise has made education, job creation, job training, and juvenile programs his top legislative priorities. Representative Wise demonstrates his effectiveness as a legislator by having many pieces of legislation reach the Governor's desk. These bills have increased protection against child abductions, improved insurance practice law, enhanced benefits for veterans, increased punishment for those who commit felony acts involving children and sexual assaults, and increased funding for youth organizations with drug abuse prevention programs.

Representative Wise currently serves as a member of the following House Committees: Financial Institutions; Licensing and Administrative Committee; and, Rules and Resolutions. He also currently serves as General Counsel to the 38-member Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) of the Texas House of Representatives. During the 1997 legislative session, Representative Wise chaired the House Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs which issued a number of significant recommendations to the Legislature which were later enacted into law.

His success in past legislative sessions earned him a number of awards including being named a "Legislative Star" by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association, being named to the "Legislative Hall of Fame" by the Texas Association of Realtors, selected as one of the "Best Legislators" in 2001 by Hispanic Journal Magazine, honored as a Notable Valley Hispanic in 2002, honored as 2002 Policymaker of the Year

by the National Association of Surety Bond Producers, and honored with the 2002 Distinguished Legislative Service Award by The American Legion - Texas Department. Additionally, in 2002 Representative Wise was the only Texas legislator selected to participate in the prestigious Harvard University's John F. Kennedy's School of Government Program For State Officials & Senior Executives, a nationwide leadership training program for public officials. He has also been selected as a Flemming Fellow, Class of 1997, a prestigious national leadership program sponsored by the Center for Policy Alternatives (CPA) in Washington, D.C. Representative Wise has also served as Texas Co-Chair of the Flemming Fellows Leadership Institute. Finally, he was selected as a National Advisory Committee Member of the CPA's Southwest Policy Leaders Forum Advisory Committee.

Representative Wise is a 1981 honor graduate of St. Mary's University in San Antonio and received his law degree from St. Mary's School of Law in 1984. He is Rio Grande Valley managing partner of the law firm Curney, Garcia, Wise & Farmer, P.C. in Edinburg and San Antonio.

As a paratrooper and infantry officer , he served in the Texas National Guard as a platoon leader, a company commander, and battalion staff officer achieving the rank of captain. He is presently a Major in the Texas State Guard. Having earned the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth, Representative Wise continues to be an active advocate for the Boy Scouts, serving as president of the five-county Rio Grande Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He currently serves on the B.S.A.'s Southern Region Committee serving 17 states.

Representative Wise is an active leader in a number of professional, civic and community organizations. He has chaired several bar association committees and received a 1996 Presidential Citation from the State Bar of Texas. Other awards include the St. George Award from the Roman Catholic Church and being honored as one of five Outstanding Young Texans by the Jaycees.

He is married to the former Erin Duffy and they have three sons: Miguel, Mark and Zachary.

05/2002